

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 33 and ending on page 9, line 3:

~~In another embodiment, the vitreous container depicted in Figure 2 is replaced by a bulb-shaped fused silica tube. The tube is filled with soot, or a mixture of soot and cullet. A vacuum is then applied to the fused silica tube. Subsequently, the fused silica tube is heated to a temperature of 1700° C to obtain a densified glass body.~~